

cradle to cradle islands

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Ameland and Texel testing labs Cradle to Cradle Islands Ten North Sea islands self-supporting in 2030

Within 20 years ten islands in the North Sea Region will be self-supporting. Wednesday in press centre Nieuwspoord in The Hague the European project Cradle to Cradle Islands (C2CI) has been launched. Ten islands in the North Sea Region participate in the project. Member of the Executive of the Frisian provincial government mr. Galema is glad that the Province of Fryslân is the lead partner of this ambitious project with 22 partners from The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Great Britain. North Sea islands, a.o. Texel and Ameland, will be the showcase for sustainable innovations in the field of water, energy and waste.

During the next four years 3,5 million euros is available for various showcase projects in the field of sustainable and innovative solutions for water, energy and waste. In The Netherlands the Centre for Sustainable Water Technology Wetsus and the Technical University Delft are involved, in Germany the research institute EPEA of founder of the C2C principle Michael Braungart.

On the island of Ameland the main issue will be sustainable mobility. The project wants to realise electrical mobility for tourists and island inhabitants. Marcel Crul of TU Delft sees good chances for this: The technology is within reach. This project provides the possibilities to realise these techniques. For example the electrical scooters with charging points, Crul points out. On the island of Texel a sustainable holiday house will be built of locally available materials like wood and straw.

Project manager Heleen Sombekke of Wetsus foresees good possibilities to generate energy from 'sweet' and salt water. The 'blue energy' technique offers good possibilities for this. Furthermore Wetsus will focus on the development of new waste water systems on the islands. 'We will separate waste water streams, for example in hotels and houses for recreational purposes. We are going to treat the 'black' or toilet waste water in such a way that energy will be won out of it and nutrients will be re-used. The remaining 'grey' water will be purified in order to make it suitable for e.g. irrigation. The islands are extremely for this pilot', according to Sombekke.

The Netherlands are an ideal testing lab for the cradle to cradle principle. According to Michael Braungart of EPEA the Dutch community is open to do things 'good' instead of 'less bad'. 'Cradle to cradle requires a radical change in thinking and doing. Especially on the islands we can show the world a blueprint of the future', says Braungart.

END OF PRESS RELEASE -

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